

Planning Commission Contact Form (response #360)

Survey Information

Site:	County of SLO
Page Title:	Planning Commission Contact Form
URL:	http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/staff/PCForm.htm
Submission Time/Date:	11/22/2015 2:43:33 PM

Survey Response

Name	Zac and Anita Konopa
Contact Information (Phone Number, Email, etc.)	anita.konopa@gmail.com
Question or Comment	<p>Hi, We are writing to let you know we, like most Templeton residents, are opposed to the proposed mental health facility in our community. Templeton is not the right location for this type of facility based on our size, resources and infrastructure.</p> <p>Please listen to TAAG, the school district and many others who oppose this.</p> <p>Thank you, Zac and Anita Konopa</p>

Planning Commission Contact Form (response #361)

Survey Information

Site:	County of SLO
Page Title:	Planning Commission Contact Form
URL:	http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/staff/PCForm.htm
Submission Time/Date:	11/23/2015 10:47:55 AM

Survey Response

Name	Ann Travers and Barbara N
Contact Information (Phone Number, Email, etc.)	a2b@charter.net
Question or Comment	I am requesting your consideration and support for the proposed inpatient psychiatric facility in Templeton. Although Templeton is a small community it is the medical hub for North County and is an appropriate location for the facility. The absence of a private inpatient facility in SLOCO is a huge gap in the public health/social services network. This facility would fill that gap and provide a safe place for county residents to receive the mental health service they require. It would also enable family members to be a part of the service team.



RECEIVED

NOV 23 2015

1911 Johnson Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
direct 805.543.5353
fax 805.543.5708

November 11, 2015

Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County

EACH SUPERVISOR
RECEIVED COPY

Supervisor Frank Mecham
County Government Center
Room D-430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Supervisor Mecham,

On behalf French Hospital Medical Center, I am writing this letter to support the proposed San Luis Obispo County Mental Health Facility in Templeton, California.

As a prominent not-for-profit community hospital in San Luis Obispo, we understand the need for more comprehensive behavioral health services to provide needed treatment options to the acute mentally ill. With an active emergency department, we routinely struggle with resources available for our patients in need of inpatient psychiatric services.

We believe it is imperative to have a local mental health facility to meet the acute care psychiatric health care needs of San Luis Obispo County. It is shameful that our residents have to travel outside of their hometown to receive mental health services which takes them away from their significant support system.

We applaud the efforts to build a new Mental Health Facility in Templeton located conveniently to other health related services. This would be of great benefit to our community and, most importantly, to those individuals and families coping with mental illness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Iftiniuk".

Alan Iftiniuk
President and CEO

Cc. Harvey E. Billig, M.D.



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

www.slocounty.ca.gov/coa.htm.com

PO Box 8119 San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8119

November 20, 2015

*Kathleen Bellefontaine, Chair
Member at Large*

*Maryanne Zarycka
District 1 Representative*

*Alice York, Vice Chair
District 2 Representative*

*Anita Shower
District 3 Representative*

*Judy Mishoulam,
District 4 Representative*

*Shirley Summers
District 5 Representative*

AAA Advisory Council

*Karen Jones
Long Term Care Ombudsman*

*Elias Nimeh
Senior Nutrition Program*

*Brittany Carraway
Senior Service Provider*

*Marie Pounders
Member at Large*

*Carol Schmidt
Member at Large*

*Marilyn Hamilton
Member at Large*

*Myra Lathrop
Member at Large*

*Roger Randall
Alternate Member at Large*

*Leonard Milstein
Alternate Member at Large*

*Peta Rimington
Alternate Member at Large*

*Thomas Clough
Alternate Member at Large*

*Rick Cohen
Alternate Member at Large*

SLO County District Attorney

SLO County Mental Health

SLO County Social Services

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
Government Building
1055 Monterey, Room D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: Proposed Mental Health Inpatient Treatment Beds

Dear Supervisors:

Recent San Luis Obispo County Commission on Aging meetings have addressed the Mental Health needs of our County Senior population. The information presented to us by County professionals has lead our Commission to take a position in support of additional mental health beds within our County. Because we are a Countywide Commission, we do not take a stand on where those beds should be located, only that we support licensed beds within the County that will meet the needs of all of our County residents. We are aware that the only currently proposed facility before you with such bed availability is the one proposed to be located in Templeton near Twin Cities Hospital and other medical services. We hope that you will provide adequate consideration on that proposal.

In September our Commission heard a presentation from Traci Mello, Program Director for Wilshire Community Services. Wilshire has a contract with the County to provide mental health services to SLO County Seniors who have a mental illness. Among Ms. Mello's statements were two that are particularly cogent to this situation. One of those statements is that for people who have mental illness, that illness does not go away once they turn 65. The other statement is that the number of beds available to seniors at the County Behavioral Health inpatient facility on Johnson Ave does not meet the needs of that population.

In October, Judy Vick, LMFT, a manager with San Luis Obispo County Behavioral Health, made a presentation at our Commission meeting. She confirmed that there are 16 licensed inpatient mental health beds at their Johnson Avenue facility. She indicated that up to four of those beds can serve children or teens, leaving a total of 12 to 16 beds available for the inpatient mental health treatment of adults, including seniors, who are either indigent or Medi-Cal recipients. All individuals with medical insurance needing inpatient mental health treatment are sent out of County, which means that other Counties are providing the mental health treatment for residents of San Luis Obispo County. To move our County residents into another County for treatment, also removes them from

proximity to their families and social support systems. This reduces the ability for family and social support systems to be actively involved in visitation, treatment and the development of a stabilization plan for their return to the community.

According to Ms. Vick, LMFT, the research shows that 140 beds are needed within San Luis Obispo County in order to address the inpatient mental health needs of our County residents. She further stated that it is the individuals with mental illness who are not being treated that reach the news. The current 16 beds available for indigent and Medi-Cal patients, falls significantly short of the 140 beds needed to serve the needs of our County.

Although we cannot recommend a location for those 140 beds because we are a Countywide Commission, we do recommend that you pursue an adequate number of beds to meet the needs of San Luis Obispo County residents needing inpatient mental health treatment.

Thank you for your consideration on this very important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Bellefontaine, Chair
San Luis Obispo County Commission on Aging



Fw: Proposed Psychiatric In-Patient Hospital - Upcoming Planning Commission Hearing 12/10/15...Our Story...

Debbie Arnold b : Holly Phipps, Ramona Hedges

11/23/2015 03:06 PM

Sent by: **Jennifer Caffee**

Debbie Arnold

Supervisor, 5th District
San Luis Obispo County
(805) 781-4339

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 11/23/2015 03:06 PM -----

From: "Steve Lieberman" <lieberman.sc@gmail.com>
To: <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>, <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc: <jhamm@co.slo.ca.us>, "Nancy Allison" <nancy@nancyallisonhomes.com>
Date: 11/23/2015 08:04 AM
Subject: Proposed Psychiatric In-Patient Hospital - Upcoming Planning Commission Hearing 12/10/15...Our Story...

Good morning,

My name is Steve Lieberman, and I have met all of you over the past several years. Along with my wife Nancy, we are proud parents of two great kids. I recently submitted a letter to the Tribune, sharing "our story of mental illness." Our son became quite sick as a teenager, and the stigma associated with the part of his body that was causing him pain must be beaten down. If his heart was making him sick, folks would have suggested we go to French Hospital as they have a great cardiac unit...even if they lived in the surrounding neighborhood. But, because his brain was making him sick, we had to go to Ventura....I just don't get it; I don't wish this on any parent, and look to you to carefully ponder this project approval. As with Trauma, STEMI (Cardiac) and Stroke specialty care centers, this proposed hospital is just one more specialty care center to help local residents.

I'd really appreciate it if you would take 30 seconds to read the letter we submitted to the Tribune:

When you start a family, I think it's safe to assume that you don't consider the chance that one of your children may develop a mental illness ... at least we didn't.

When our son was 13 years old (seventh grade), he became seriously depressed and anxious, and he considered suicide. Helping our son through mental illness

was something that we were completely unprepared for . One day, as Nancy was rushing him to the emergency room, he tried to escape the car on the freeway. We were out of options, and the only psychiatric hospital anywhere close to San Luis Obispo was in Ventura. We hit rock bottom; we watched our son being led into the hospital for a four-day evaluation. We stayed in hotels; we worried about our 9-year-old daughter at home. We felt alone and without hope. Our son is now healthy and enjoying college. He has learned to control his anxiety as best he can. Our family supports a local psychiatric in-patient facility in San Luis Obispo County. We are not a family to be feared by neighbors of a specialty care center; rather, we are the parents of a kid who was sick and needed help — locally.

Read more here:

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article41524272.html#storylink=cpy>

Best wishes from our family for a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

SL

Steve Lieberman
805.310.7155

Planning Commission Contact Form (response #362)

Survey Information

Site:	County of SLO
Page Title:	Planning Commission Contact Form
URL:	http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/staff/PCForm.htm
Submission Time/Date:	11/24/2015 11:42:31 AM

Survey Response

Name	Daniel O'Grady
Contact Information (Phone Number, Email, etc.)	dogrady9@gmail.com
Question or Comment	<p>Re: PLC106215 Templeton Behavioral Health Facility As a former SLO County and Atascadero City planning commissioner, when faced with contentious projects such as this one, I often heard objections based on fear- fear of change, fear of the unknown, fear of people different from themselves. Objections to the Behavioral Health Facility are largely based on such fears rather than facts. I have seen your Planning Commission approve beneficial projects in the face of fear-based objections e.g. the recent Marijuana Dispensary. So I am confident your commission will not succumb to the fears expressed at the hearing. Ms. Phipps excellent, comprehensive, well-documented staff report amply illustrates why the Behavioral Health Facility will make SLO County a better place to live. As a Templeton resident, I welcome the facility and appreciate the applicant's affording this opportunity to the larger community. Please approve this project as recommended by Ms. Phipps. Thank you.</p>